



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

## **2014-2015 CWD REPORT FOR CONNECTICUT**

**Submitted to:**

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The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Wildlife Division, (CT DEP) is responsible for statewide surveillance of CWD in free-ranging deer, increasing awareness among hunters and the general public, and developing and implementing a CWD response plan.

In Connecticut, aerial deer surveys conducted by the CT DEEP Wildlife Division, Deer Program were used to estimate statewide and regional deer densities. Within the state, thirteen Deer Management Zones (DMZ) were established based on deer densities (densities ranged from 8 to > 60 deer per square mile) and land use patterns. Deer densities in many of the DMZ's are high, making the potential for the spread of the disease should it exist, much greater.

In 2014/2015 a cooperative effort between Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge (SBMNR) and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Wildlife Division (DEEP). with financial assistance from United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System allowed for the collection of CWD samples. Active surveillance involved collecting samples from each of Connecticut's thirteen Deer Management Zones in proportion to zonal deer densities to obtain a statistically valid sample with 95% confidence of detecting the disease at the 1% prevalence level (Table 1). All total of 325 samples were collected from hunter-harvested deer at deer check stations, butcher shops, and from deer killed by motor vehicle. All samples were submitted for testing at Colorado State University and results are still pending.

In addition to random surveillance, the DEEP conducted targeted surveillance and testing of free-ranging cervids statewide exhibiting symptoms consistent with CWD (emaciation, abnormal behavior, excessive salivation). One target animal (white-tailed deer) was collected by Department staff and tested at the University of Connecticut's Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science in Storrs, CT. Results from all suspect animals were negative for CWD and rabies.



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Information on CWD was published in the Hunting and Trapping Guide. A informational /educational PowerPoint presentations on CWD was developed and provided to the Conservation Education and Firearms Safety CEFS coordinator and presented to all new students. The presentation was also made available to all sportsmen's clubs across the state and made available on the DEEP and SBMNWR websites. A new CWD brochure was developed to reflect the most recent information pertaining to CWD. The brochure was made available online and approximately 4,000 printed copies were made available for distribution at DEEP and SBMNWR offices. An additional 12,000 brochures were printed and provided to all new CEFS students. One article discussing new findings on the CWD front and updates on Connecticut's surveillance efforts was published in the Divisions bi-monthly magazine "*Connecticut Wildlife*".

Table 1. Sampling framework for Connecticut, based on distribution of deer among each deer management zone for high-risk and moderate-risk populations, 2014/2015.

<b>Deer Management Zone</b>	<b>Percent of Population</b>	<b>Samples Needed (n = 298)</b>	<b>Samples Collected</b>
1	9.2	27	31
2	2.6	8	13
3	10.7	32	31
4a&4b	5	15	18
5 & 9	27.5	82	90
6	10.2	30	18
7 & 8	10.6	32	39
10	1.6	5	6
11	16	48	54
12	6.6	19	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>324</b>